

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ALONG WITH THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE

HEBDEN BRIDGE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

BY


GARNET G. LAWSON,

M.B., D.P.H.

Presented March, 1916.

HEBDEN BRIDGE :

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Hebden Bridge Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

Holme House,

Hebden Bridge,

1st March, 1916.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hebden Bridge Urban District Council.

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Hebden Bridge Urban District for the year 1915. In accordance with the suggestions contained in the Circular of the Local Government Board (M. 9), issued in December, 1915, respecting annual reports of Medical Officers of Health, and with the view of economy in time and expense, the usual general descriptions are omitted from the report.

For the purpose of Vital Statistics I shall keep to the Census Return of 1911. Considerable numbers left the district early in the year to join the Forces of the Crown, but this loss is, in my opinion, counterbalanced by the immigration of Belgians and persons employed on Work in connection with the war.

WATER SUPPLY.

1. During the year 170 yards of 4-inch mains were laid in Palace House Road.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

2. Any extensive improvements have been in abeyance during the year owing to the necessity for economy.

The extensions at the Outfall Works to provide treatment for the increased volume of sewage, consequent upon the arrangement for dealing with sewage from the Charlies-town area, are still in progress. The completion has been much impeded owing to shortage of labour. It is hoped that the work will be finished during the coming summer.

SCAVENGING.

3. Scavenging is carried on throughout the District by the Council's Staff, and the refuse is deposited at tips. The cost for the year amounted to £315.

During the year the Council took action under Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1875, to compel the removal of manure from mews and other premises. As a consequence of failure to comply, prosecution in two cases took place, resulting in one party being fined £2 and the other dismissed (by consent) on a promise by the defendant to pay costs, the manure in this case having been removed between the issue of the summons and the hearing.

The pail closets in the District number 75, a decrease of seven during the year.

There are 1567 water closets, an increase of 18 in comparison with the number a year ago. Of the 18, seven were substituted for privies and eleven were additional water closets for old property (two in dwellings and nine in factories).

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

4. During the year 825 inspections were made. In eight instances only the serving of notice to abate nuisances was found necessary, and the notices were complied with.

Forty nuisances were reported and 39 were abated during the year.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES AND CANAL BOATS.

5. The two common lodging-houses in the District and the canal boats were subjected to the usual supervision. They were found to be in a satisfactory condition and in compliance with regulations.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

6. There is only one business in the District which is classified as an offensive trade. The works have been periodically inspected and found in a satisfactory state.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

7. Personal inspections have been made by the Sanitary Inspector, and the premises have been found as satisfactory as the buildings and their positions will allow.

SCHOOLS.

8. I have to report favourably on the sanitary condition and water supply of the various schools in the District.

As hitherto, the children have been regularly examined and, without doubt, good has resulted from the discoveries of physical defects and subsequent action taken. I again submit remarks made in my last annual report respecting the cleansing of children's teeth. Decayed teeth and, in many cases, the absence of natural teeth in young adults in this District are, I am sure, due in a great measure to the total neglect in childhood of all efforts towards the cleanliness and care of teeth. I would suggest that the necessary precautions and the evil accruing from their neglect be constantly instilled into children and parents. If it could be found practicable to provide tooth brushes for children attending school, and enforce their use during school hours systematically, it would, in my opinion, be worth the trouble and expense incurred. It would also be a most desirable innovation to appoint a dental surgeon, and have every child's mouth examined periodically and defects attended to. The wholesale extraction of teeth because they "ache" is deplorable. There is no doubt that many more diseases than those commonly suspected by the general public as due to unhealthy mouths, are attributable to this source.

School attendance has, throughout the year, been considerably interfered with owing to Measles, Whooping Cough, Chickenpox, and Mumps. In no case, however, was the closure of any thought to be necessary.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

9. Whooping Cough, which had been prevalent during the year 1914, continued throughout the first quarter of 1915. Since that time it has almost completely ceased. It affected, to a great extent, the attendances at the Central and Stubblings Schools. The type was mild and there was no mortality.

MUMPS.

10. There were many cases in infants and young children in the second half of the year, and the attendance at the three schools was considerably reduced as a result.

CHICKENPOX.

11. Numerous cases occurred during the third quarter of the year, and in the fourth quarter a few cases continued to appear.

MEASLES.

12. The disease was present during the last three-quarters of the year among infants and the younger children. Although the cases were numerous, it is pleasing to note that no mortality resulted.

Measles is, by some parents, still mistakenly regarded as a simple and necessary disease of childhood. The mortality figures for the country show that an annual average of no fewer than 10,000 deaths occur from measles. This lamentable number of deaths exceeds the total number of deaths from all the notifiable diseases. In addition to this huge number (registered as directly due to Measles) many more deaths occur from the sequelæ of Measles, such as Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

It is known that the older a child becomes, the likelihood of an attack of Measles becomes less, and, if attacked, the probability of recovery increases. It can almost be said that if infection can be prevented until a child reaches the age of five years, the risk of death from Measles is practically precluded. It is thus obvious that everything is to be gained by preventing the spread of Measles, instead of parents maintaining the erroneous idea that the contraction of the disease in children is inevitable. One of the chief difficulties in preventing the spread of the disease is the high infectivity in the early stage before the appearance of the rash, i.e., when shivering occurs and running from nose and eyes are apparent.

With the object of impressing upon the public the seriousness of the disease and the possibility of reducing the attack and mortality rate, the Local Government Board have added Measles to the other notifiable infectious diseases. From 1st January, 1916, a parent or guardian is bound, under a heavy penalty, so soon as he or she becomes aware or has reasonable grounds for supposing that any person in his or her charge is suffering from Measles, to notify the case to the Medical Officer of Health of the District, stating the name, age, and address, unless notification has been made by the medical attendant in charge of the case. In most cases there are no medical attendants and the responsibility of notification by parents or guardians is very definite. I fear that this responsibility is not fully understood.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACT.

13. Twenty-one cases were reported, viz.:—

	1915	1914
Scarlet Fever (9 received hospital treatment)	12	5
Enteric Fever (2 ,, ,,)	3	2
Diphtheria 	1	5
Erysipelas 	3	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum 	2	...
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21	15

The figures for 1914 are inserted for the purpose of comparison.

No deaths occurred from Scarlet Fever.

One death, in a child aged four, occurred from Enteric Fever.

The case of Diphtheria (a child aged eighteen months) ended fatally.

I consider the number of notifications and also the mortality very small.

TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS.

14. Under these Regulations 10 cases of Pulmonary and 11 cases of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified during the year. Eight deaths occurred from Pulmonary and five from other forms of the disease. An analysis of the 10 Pulmonary cases notified shows:—

Cases where death resulted	5
Cases in statu quo	4
Cases apparently cured	1

An analysis of the 11 cases of Tuberculosis other than Pulmonary shows:—

Cases where death resulted	4
Cases in statu quo	2
Cases improving	4
Cured	1

HOUSING.

15. No new houses have been occupied during the year.

Under the Housing Regulations 450 additional houses have been examined and reported upon, thus bringing up the total examined to 1,535.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

16. These have been inspected at intervals and a few minor defects found. On requests being made to owners or occupiers, necessary repairs or alterations were carried out.

VITAL STATISTICS.

17. The vital statistics for the year 1915 are as follows, and for comparison I submit, in the second column, the figures for the previous year, and those of England and Wales for the year under review in the third column:—

	1915	1914	England and Wales
Birth Rate	12.3	14.5	21.8
Death Rate	14.9	10.8	15.1
Infantile Mortality	102.2	96.1	110
Zymotic Death Rate... ..	.2	1.6	1.3
Tuberculous Death Rate ...	1.8	.28	
Respiratory Death Rate ...	3.2	.4	
Cancer Death Rate ... ..	.8	.9	

B I R T H S .

18. Births number 88 (including 2 illegitimate)—42 males and 46 females—a rate of 12.3 per 1000. As far as I can trace, this is much below the lowest number of births previously recorded, and is, I fear, one of the evil, though at this time unpreventable, results of the great demand for women labour and the consequent inconvenience that child-bearing would involve.

The number of births during the previous five years were 104, 103, 101, 104, and 109.

D E A T H S .

19. The deaths recorded number 107—48 males and 59 females—giving a death-rate of 14.9 per 1000. The numbers of deaths during the previous five years were respectively 78, 95, 107, 104, and 90.

The deaths took place at the following age periods, and for the purpose of comparison the figures for the previous year are shown:—

	1915	1914
Under 1 year	9	10
Between 1 and 2 years ...	4	3
„ 2 „ 5 „ ...	3	3
„ 5 „ 15 „ ...	2	6
„ 15 „ 25 „ ...	7	2
„ 25 „ 45 „ ...	12	10
„ 45 „ 65 „ ...	32	17
Over 65 years	38	27

The number of deaths is considerably above the average. An examination of the age periods shows that this increase is mostly accounted for by the death of people beyond middle life and particularly of people over 65 years.

During the first five months of the year Influenza and Lung Complaints were very prevalent, and though no death was attributed directly to Influenza, I think it may be safely assumed that it indirectly caused many deaths. No less than 23 deaths were ascribed to Lung (Bronchitis and Pneumonia) diseases, as compared with three in the previous year. There were 13 deaths from Tuberculous diseases, as compared with two in the previous year.

Among the different causes of death were:—

	1915	1914
Organic Heart Disease	18	10
Cancer	6	7
Zymotic Diseases (Enteric 1, Diphtheria 1)	2	12
Respiratory Diseases	23	3
Tuberculous Diseases	13	2
Bright's Disease	7	4

The loss of life in the war, which is taking place among what may be regarded as the most virile of the manhood of the nation, ought to be counteracted as far as possible; and in addition to other means, the following might give scope for beneficial work:—

- (a) Any steps having in view the reduction of a high infantile mortality rate by the fuller instruction of mothers in the care of infants, and the application of the Notification of Births Act to its fullest extent; and
- (b) By the local authorities availing themselves of the ever-extending scope of their administrative powers and particularly the exercising of greater interest in the housing conditions of the people.

These points apply more to the towns than to small Districts like this, where infantile mortality and housing conditions are, I consider, much above the average.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

20. Nine deaths occurred in infants under one year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 102.2, as compared with 10 in 1914 and a rate of 96.1. Five were due to premature birth, malformations and atrophy, three to lung diseases, and one to tuberculosis.

MISCELLANEOUS.

21. I am indebted to Mr. Crossley, of Fallingroyd, for the following weather reports:—

	1915	1914
Mean Temperature... ..	45.94	47.19
Rainfall	46.64	51.05

I append to the Report the usual Tables.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GARNET G. LAWSON, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table 1.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous Years.

Year.	Pop'lation estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncor- rected No.	Nett.		No.	Rate.	Of Non- Residents Registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At All Ages.	
			No.	Rate.					No.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	8000	109	109	13·6	78	9·7	0	12	7	64·2	90	11·2
1911	7170	103	104	14·5	95	13·2	0	9	11	105·7	104	14·5
1912	7170	101	101	14·0	95	13·2	1	13	12	118·8	107	14·9
1913	7170	101	103	14·3	87	12·1	0	8	13	126·2	95	13·2
1914	7170	104	104	14·5	60	8·3	0	18	10	96·1	78	10·8
1915	7170	87	88	12·3	100	13·9	1	8	9	102·2	107	14·9

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 475 acres.

Total Population at all Ages, 7,170 }
Total families or separate occupiers, 1847 } At Census of 1911.

Table 2.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1915.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified.								Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years							
		Un-der 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upw'rds	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	0
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	0
Scarlet Fever.....	12	...	2	10	...	...	...	...	9
Enteric Fever	3	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	2
Ophthalmia									
Neonatorum...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Pulmonary									
Tuberculosis...	10	...	...	...	2	3	3	...	0
Other forms of									
Tuberculosis...	11	1	1	3	5	1	...	2	0
Totals	42	3	5	13	7	5	6	3	11

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.:—

Fielden Hospital, Todmorden (46 Beds)—For Scarlet, Diphtheria and Enteric; supported jointly by Todmorden Borough, Todmorden Rural, Hebden Bridge Urban, and Mytholmroyd Urban Districts.

Sourhall Hospital, Todmorden (36) Beds—For Smallpox; supported jointly by Todmorden Borough, Todmorden Rural, Hebden Bridge Urban, and Mytholmroyd Urban Districts, and Bacup.

Consumptive Sanatoria at Keighley and Wakefield, under the W.R.C.C.

Table 4.—Infant Mortality during the Year 1915.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under 1 Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Certified	2	1	1	0	4	1	2	0	2	9
Measles ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Other Tuberculous Diseases....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms).....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Congenital Malformations ....	..	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Premature Birth	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Other causes .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Total	2	1	1	0	4	1	2	0	2	9

Nett Births in the Year—Legitimate 86, Illegitimate 2.

Nett Deaths in the Year of—Legitimate Infants 9, Illegitimate Infants 0.

Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

IN CONNECTION WITH

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections 2	Written Notices. 3	Prosecutions. 4
FACTORIES	15	—	—
(Including Factory Laundries.)			
WORKSHOPS	26	—	—
(Including Workshop Laundries).			
WORKPLACES	7	—	—
Total.....	48	0	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions 5
	Found. 2	Remedied 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4	
Want of Cleanliness.....	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes.....	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary re- quirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	—	—	—	—
Total.....	0	0	0	0

3. HOME WORK—None.

4. REGISTERED WORKSHOPS—Ordinary Workshops 50; Workshop Bakehouses, 14; total number of Workshops on register, 64.

5. OTHER MATTERS—Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act, (s. 133, 1901)—Nil.

Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5, 1901)—Notified by H.M. Inspector—Nil.
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M.I.—Nil.

UNDERGROUND BAKEHOUSES (s. 101) in use at the end of the year—Nil.

TABLE C, 1915.

HEBDEN BRIDGE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Water Supply—

Any developments during 1915?—170 yards 4-inch main in Palace House Road.
 Any insufficiency, and where?—No.
 Any curtailment?—No.
 When and for how long?—
 Did any wells fail, and where?—No.
 Any unsatisfactory quality, and where?—No.
 Any unchecked plumbo-solvent action?—No.

Drainage and Sewerage—

Any developments during 1915?—Extension at Sewage Works now in progress.
 Developments still needed as to
 (a) Want of sewers—No.
 (b) Improvement of defective sewers—Two.
 Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints as to smells?—No.
 No. of sink-wastes disconnected during 1915—Two.
 Trapped—Two.
 Proportion of sink-wastes still needing disconnection—
 Unknown. Untrapped—Unknown.

Closet Accommodation—

No. of Privies with open middens—Nil.

No. of Pail or Tub Closets—75.

No. of Privies with covered middens—Six.

No. of Water Closets—1572.

Waste-water Closets—19.

Are proper doors and coverings provided—Yes.

No. of Privies re-constructed during 1915—

(a) As w.c.'s—12. (b) Other—Nil.

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1915—(a) w.c.'s, 11; (b) other—Nil.

No. of Closets constructed in 1915 for new houses—

(a) w.c.'s, Nil; (b) other—Nil.

Scavenging—

How is refuse disposed of—(a) Destructor—No; (b) Tips—Yes; (c) Farmers—No.

Total annual cost—£315.

Is there any inadequacy, and where?—No.

Any change during 1915?—No.

Nuisance Inspections—

Total No. of Inspections made in 1915—825.

Informal Notices served—4. Complied with—4.

Statutory Notices served—4. Complied with—4.

Total Number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1914—2.

At close of 1915—1.

Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1915—40.

Abated during 1915—41.

Total No. of Summonses or other legal proceedings—Two.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	Total No. of Inspections Made.	General Condition?	Legal Pro- ceedings (if any).				
Common Lodging Houses	2	...	2	...	9	...	Good	...	Nil
Canal Boats	—	...	—	...	31	...	Good	..	Nil
Offensive Trades (Tripe Dressing).	1	...	1	...	10	..	Good	...	Nil

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades, e.g., Fish-frying, Maggot-breeding, etc.?—Nil.

Schools—

No. of Elementary Schools in District—Three.
 No. of Visits to Schools—Several.
 Action taken—Nil.

Milk Supply—

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under Food and Drugs Acts—Nil.
 Number adulterated—Nil.
 No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination—Nil.
 What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows?—Nil.
 Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1915?—No.
 No. of Cowkeepers in district—6. No. registered—6.
 No. of Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers—32.
 No. who are Purveyors only—Nil.
 Total Number Registered—Six.
 Total No. of Cowsheds—6.
 No. of Inspections in 1915—15.
 General condition—Fair.
 Approximate No. of Milch Cows in District—42.
 Any insufficiency in Milk Supply—No.
 Legal proceedings under D.C.M. Orders—No.
 Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent?—No.

Other Foods—

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs Acts—Nil. No. adulterated—Nil.
 No. of seizures of unsound food—Nil.
 Kind and quantity— No. of Prosecutions—
 No. of Slaughter-houses—9. No. Registered—9.
 Kind and condition—Fair.
 No. of Prosecutions (a) Food and Drugs—Nil; (b) Unsound Food—Nil; (c) re Slaughter-houses—Nil.

Factories and Workshops—

Any Smoke nuisance, and where?—Yes, abated after notice.

No. of Smoke observations taken—29.

No. of Cautions—3. Legal Notices—Nil.

Summonses—Nil.

Adoptive Acts—

Acts adopted during 1915—Nil.

Byelaws and Regulations—

Any adopted during 1915—No.

Are any other Byelaws needed?—No.

Infectious and other Diseases—

What diseases have been specially prevalent in 1915?—

Whooping Cough in first quarter, Measles second, third and fourth quarters.

Any special action to combat same?—No.

Is Hospital accommodation adequate and sufficient?—Yes.

What arrangement for the supply of antitoxin?—Council supply Diphtheria Antitoxin free.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list?—No.

Any influences threatening the health of the district?—No.

Special Reports and Investigations—

Nil.

Tuberculosis—

(1) Inspection of patient's home and workshop—Six.

(2) Examination for contacts—Nil.

(3) Disinfection—Six.

(4) Distribution of advice leaflets—Yes.

(5) Action re spitting—Public notices.

(6) Shelters provided—No.

(7) Is sputum examined—Yes.

(8) Tuberculosis Dispensaries: Any suggestions—No.

Bacteriology—

Is County Laboratory utilised?—Yes.
Any suggestions?—No.

Infant Mortality—

What organised effort to control it?—The Schools Nurse visits frequently where it is considered advisable.
Any Baby Clinic, Baby's Welcome, or Mothers' League—No.

Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1915—Not excessive.

Vital Statistics—

Births during 1915—Males 42, Females 46; Total 88.
No. illegitimate included in above—2.

No. of Still Births (not included)—Not known.

Deaths during 1915—(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the District without any correction—100.

(2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated—
Males 48, Females 59; Total 107.

No. of uncertified deaths (included above)—Nil.

Miscellaneous—

Mean Temperature for 1915—45.94. Rainfall—46.64.
What Mortuary accommodation—

(a) For accidents—Mortuary in Lewis Holme.

(b) For infectious cases other than at Hospital?—
Nil.

No. of Burial Grounds—Three.

Any need for extension?—No.

Sanitary Staff—

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.?—£50
Name of Sanitary Inspector—Emmett Smith.

Annual Salary as Inspector—£70 10s.

Other appointments held—Nil.

Any Assistants?—No. Is Staff sufficient?—Yes.

Summary of Housing Work during 1915.

No. of Houses inspected under Sec. 17 of 1909 Act—450.
No. found unfit for habitation—None.

No. of representations made with a view to making Closing Orders—None. No. of Closing Orders made—None.

No. of Houses with defects remedied without Closing Orders—14.

No. of Houses made fit after Closing Orders made—

General character of defects found—Drains untrapped or disconnected.

Obstructive Buildings.—Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890 Act?—No.

Result of action (if any)—

Any building represented by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 38 (2)?—No.

Reconstruction Schemes.—Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act?—No.

Unfit Houses.—Any complaints by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 31 of 1890 Act?—None.

Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Sec. 17 (7)?—No.

Any action in respect of such rooms?—

Any scarcity of houses, if so, where? — Some scarcity of cottage houses.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and where?—No.

No. of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1915—None.

Any special activity in house building, and where?—No.

Number of new houses built during 1915 (a) Working-class dwellings—Nil. (b) Other—Nil.

Any working-class dwellings erected during 1915 by Sanitary Authority—No.

Are Sanitary Authority contemplating erection of working-class dwellings?—No.

Town Planning.—Any scheme prepared during 1915?—No.

Any scheme contemplated?—No.

Name and Address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910?—Mr. Emmett Smith, Calder Terrace, Hebden Bridge.

GARNET G. LAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 1st, 1916.

NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Council Offices,

Hebden Bridge,

March 18th, 1916.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present my Report for the year 1915, which is my Thirty-fifth Annual one as Sanitary Inspector to the Council.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.—The system of Pail Closets is gradually vanishing from the district, conversions to the water-carriage system during the year reducing the number of 75. There has been an increase in the number of water closets of 23.

NUISANCES.—These have been few during the year, and none of them of a serious character.

HOUSE INSPECTION.—In accordance with the requirements of the Housing Section of the Town Planning Act, I have inspected 450 houses, in which the defects were few in number and of a very minor character; as I took care to select the worst class of houses the first, all the 450 inspected are comparatively modern houses, most of them having been erected during my term of office.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. — The district has been fairly free from this class of disease, 19 cases being recorded against 15 the previous year. Eleven of these were removed to Hospital.

SMOKE NUISANCE.—It has been necessary to issue three cautions only during the year where excessive smoke has been observed, and these have had the desired effect.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.—There has not been much to complain about respecting these.

The premises subject to Special Regulations, such as Cowsheds, Slaughter-houses, and Common Lodging-houses, were conducted in such a manner as to give no cause for complaint.

Particulars of other work will be found in Table C of the Medical Officer's report.

I am, your obedient Servant,

E. SMITH,
Inspector.

CANAL BOAT REPORT.

Council Offices,

Hebden Bridge,

January 17th, 1916.

GENTLEMEN,—

The number of Canal Boats inspected was 31, with registered sleeping accommodation in the cabins for 142 adults, but the actual number occupying the cabins or accompanying the boats was 37 men, 2 women, and 2 children. There have been fewer boats than I have seen for years, owing, I presume, to the war. I have heard of them having 70 horses tied up in the stables for want of drivers.

I am, your obedient Servant,

E. SMITH,
Inspector.